
GOWER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

—
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1954

BY

G. E. DONOVAN

M.D., M.Sc., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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1954

Chairman : Councillor IVOR DAVIES, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor W. ARTHUR DAVIES

Councillors :

WILLIAM AUSTIN, J.P.	Colonel F. S. MORGAN,
G. E. GIBBS, J.P.	C.B.E., D.L., J.P.
C. M. GODBEER	Rev. O. R. OWEN
I. A. GRONOW	B. J. RICHARDS
GLYN A. GROVE, J.P.	J. B. ROGERS
SAMUEL GRIFFITHS	J. W. THOMAS
ROBERT GUY, J.P.	H. M. TUCKER
D. I. JENKINS	W. G. TUCKER, J.P.
S. E. JOHN	P. T. WILLIAMS
P. P. JONES, B.A.	W. R. WILLIAMS
T. LLOYD	A. J. YEANDLE
F. LORD	

Public Health Committee :

Chairman : J. W. THOMAS

Vice-Chairman ; W. G. TUCKER, J.P.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health :

G. E. DONOVAN, M.D., M.Sc., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

G. ASHLEY JONES, M.S.I.A.

Clerks :

D. HUMPHREYS—Jan. to Sept., 1954.

W. MARROW—Oct. to Dec., 1954

Gower Rural District Council.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
7/8 Uplands Crescent,
Swansea.

To the Chairman and Members of the
GOWER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The Public Health Services in Gower have to provide, not only for the ordinary residents in Gower, but also for the large influx of visitors. A typical example would be a party of French Boy Scouts camping in Gower during August. One of these scouts was a close contact to a case of Poliomyelitis, and being on holiday, would naturally tend to travel over the Gower area and mix with people. Appropriate action was taken in this case.

The work of the health department is constantly increasing, and the pressure is becoming greater.

I thank my staff for their loyalty and support.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. E. DONOVAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

The Gower Area is chiefly agricultural with the exception of the North Eastern end of the Peninsula, which is industrial in Character. Due to the charms of the area there is a very large influx of visitors, especially during the summer months.

There is a tendency to look upon Gower as a small agricultural area with a population of 11,720. In my opinion this is a wrong way to look at the situation. It will be noted that the population of Gower has increased from 11,630 from the last year to 11,720. I would reckon that at certain times of the year, due to the visitors, the population would be quadrupled, and the health facilities should be such as to adequately deal with this population. It must also be remembered that the Gower population is constantly increasing.

The population find employment on the land, catering for visitors, and a large percentage of the male population find employment in the Llŵchwr area where they are engaged in the Steel, Tin and Coal trades.

At the Penclawdd, the cockle industry absorbs approximately 200 people. The estuary is polluted, and this industry should be safeguarded by adequate public health control. At the present time there are five cockle sterilization plants operating in the Penclawdd area.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The District is divided into 17 parishes, the acreage of each parish being as follows :

Bishopston	.....	.....	.....	2598	acres.
Llanmadoc	.....	.....	.....	1463	„
Cheriton	.....	.....	.....	1427	„
Ilston	.....	.....	.....	3109	„
Reynoldston	.....	.....	.....	1069	„
Knelston	.....	.....	.....	548	„
Llangennith	.....	.....	.....	3373	„
Llanrhidian Higher	.....	.....	.....	5212	„
Llanrhidian Lower	.....	.....	.....	6125	„
Nicholaston	.....	.....	.....	517	„
Penmaen	.....	.....	.....	1005	„
Oxwich	.....	.....	.....	1342	„
Pennard	.....	.....	.....	2862	„
Penrice	.....	.....	.....	2127	„
Porteynon	.....	.....	.....	1151	„
Llanddewi	.....	.....	.....	2009	„
Rhossilil	.....	.....	.....	2715	„
				<hr/>	
				38652	„
				<hr/>	

The estimated resident population of the district for 1954 is given by the Registrar-General as 11,720.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 3,762, and the rateable value of the district was £37,348 which represents a sum of £133 as the yield of a penny rate.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered for the district during 1954 was 172, being 89 males and 83 females, representing a birth rate of 14.68 per thousand of the estimated population. This rate is lower than that recorded for England and Wales, which is given as 15.20 per thousand of the estimated population.

In 1953 the net total births amounted to 203, thus this year there is a decrease of 31 births

Two male illegitimate children were registered, a proportion of 11.63 per thousand registered live births.

The stillbirths numbered 4, that is 3 males and one female, which is equivalent to a rate of 22.72 per thousand total (live and still) births.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate for the Gower area is low. It is only 14.68 per thousand of the population, whilst that for England and Wales is 15.2, 160 Great Towns 16.8, 160 Smaller Towns 16.6.

It does not induce towards a high fertility rate if young married couples are living in rooms, or with their people-in-law.

The tensions engendered give rise to quarrelling and unhappiness. It can happen that by giving the highest priority to other cases, that the birth rate can drop to catastrophic levels. There is no real wealth in an area, except in its young, all its hopes and future are centered on them.

Another important factor in reducing birth rate is the fact that both partners go out to work, and decide to postpone having children.

DEATHS.

The net total deaths after allowing for inward and outward transfers was 156, being 90 males and 66 females. This represents a death rate of 13.31 per thousand of the estimated population, and is higher than the figure 11.3 per thousand of the population, given for England and Wales. The net total of deaths in 1953 was 137, thus this year there is an increase of 19 deaths.

There were 7 deaths in children under 1 year during 1954 which gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 40.70 per thousand total live births.

The following Table gives Infantile Mortality rates for England and Wales, and various other countries for the year 1952-54, and also the Gower area in comparison:—

	1952	1953.	1954.
GOWER RURAL	35.	44.	41.
England and Wales	28.	27.	26.
Wales	33.	31.	32.
Scotland	35.	38.	—
Northern Ireland	39.	—	—
Irish Republic	41.	39.	—
Australia	24.	23.	22.
Canada	38.	35.	—
Chile	134.	114.	—
Denmark	29.	27.	27.
France	46.	42.	41.
Italy	64.	59.	53.
Netherlands	23.	22.	21.
New Zealand	22.	20.	22.
Sweden	20.	19.	19.
U.S.A.	29.	28.	27.

The Infant Mortality Rate is a very good index to the social circumstances of an area, as the rate tends to be high in places where bad housing, overcrowding, defective sanitation, maternal ignorance and neglect prevail. The rate for the Gower area is 40.70 per thousand births. This is much higher I like it.

No deaths occurred in the area due to Puerperal Sepsis or other maternal causes.

4 deaths were due to Pneumonia, 11 to Bronchitis and 2 from other forms of Respiratory Diseases, giving a total of 17 deaths from all forms of Respiratory Diseases, apart from Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of 1.45 per thousand of the population.

One death was registered from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system.

No deaths were registered from Violence or from Suicide.

Cancer and all other forms of Malignant disease caused 24 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.05 per thousand of the population.

The causes of deaths during the year are as follows:—

Respiratory Tuberculosis	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17
Coronary disease, angina	21
Hypertension with heart disease	4
Other heart diseases	16
Other circulatory diseases.....	17
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	4
Bronchitis	11
Other diseases of respiratory system	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	2
Congenital malformations.....	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	26
Diabetes	1
All other accidents	4
Total	156

It is interesting to note that, approximately half the total deaths that occur in the Gower area, are due to Circulatory Diseases which includes Heart Disease.

This is the great killer, and any research to reduce the mortality and crippling due to this disease, would lighten the burden.

The death rates in Gower from Infectious Diseases in 1954 are as follows :

	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population
Smallpox	0	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0.00
Diphtheria	0	0.00
Tuberculosis	1	0.09
Influenza	1	0.09
Pneumonia	4	0.34

Death Rate from Other Causes.

Cancer	24	2.04
Circulatory Diseases	75	6.39
Bronchitis and other diseases of the respiratory system	13	1.10

It is gratifying to note that there were no maternal deaths during the year. The number of maternal deaths for England and Wales for the years 1952-54 are as follows:—

	1952	1953	1954
Sepsis of Pregnancy, child-birth and puerperium ; abortion with sepsis (640, 641, 651, 681, 682, 684)	110	110	97
Other complications, of pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium including abortion (Rem. 640-689)	388	417	384

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**Diphtheria.**

No case was notified to my department during the year.

It may be stated that the incidence of Diphtheria in this area is low due to the extensive Immunisation Campaign.

The incidence of Diphtheria for the past ten years is as follows:

Year	Number of Cases	Deaths
1945	1	1
1946	2	—
1947	—	—
1948	—	—
1949	1	—
1950	1	—
1951	—	—
1952	—	—
1953	—	—
1954	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Since the new Health Scheme this is under the control of the Glamorgan County Council.

General Practitioners in the Administrative County who participate in the County Council's Scheme for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination against Smallpox may obtain serum and vaccine free of cost from the Medical Research Councils' Laboratories at Cardiff and Carmarthen.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that Diphtheria Immunisation gives nearly 100% protection and that in my opinion a parent or guardian who knowingly deprives a child of this protection is guilty to say the least of gross negligence—and that is using a mild term. There is no reason why anyone in this area can state that they are unaware of the facilities available to them for immunisation.

We cannot be too complacent about diphtheria immunisation. It must be remembered that previously 50% of the death rate in diphtheria occurred in children under the age of four years. It requires only a few years of non-immunisation to be back in the old days. This illustrates that there is no final victory in preventive medicine—it is a continuous battle.

Scarlet Fever.

9 cases were notified to my department during the year, giving a rate of 0.77 per thousand of the population.

The removal of cases of Scarlet Fever to Isolation Hospital in this district depends upon home conditions. If the home conditions are such that in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health it is safe to nurse the patient at home, this is done. If, however, the home conditions are unsuitable the patient is admitted to Garngoch Isolation Hospital.

Pneumonia.

1 case was notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.09 per thousand of the population.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. This gives a rate of 23.26 per thousand live births. The Rate for 1953 was 24.15.

Venereal Diseases.

Many cases are brought to the notice of the public health department. Those who are not attending for treatment are contacted and encouraged to attend a V.D. clinic. Contacts are also requested to attend a clinic.

Wasserman Blood Tests are being done as a routine in the Ante-Natal Clinics, and samples of blood are sent to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

The nearest clinics for this area are held at Swansea and Port Talbot, and the sessions are as follows:—

Swansea Clinic (Situate at Swansea General and Eye Hospital):

Males —Monday, 2 p.m.
 Tuesday, 7 p.m.
 Friday, 6.30 p.m.

Females—Thursday, 1.30 p.m.

Port Talbot Clinic (Situate on the right hand side of the road immediately opposite the exit from G.W.R. Station) :

Males—Monday 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. and
 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Females—Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1954.

	Estimated Population 1954	Births.		Deaths.		Infant Mortality.		Neo Natal Mortality.	
		Number of Births	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation.	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 weeks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
England and Wales	..	11,521	15.2	9,038	11.3	370	25.5	248	17.7
Administrative County	..	8,486	15.62	6,602	12.25	275	32.12	187	21.53
Urban Districts	..	3,035	15.87	2,436	12.35	95	32.41	61	20.04
Rural Districts	..	560	14.94	579	11.99	15	31.30	12	22.10
<i>Health Division.</i>									
Aberdare and	..	40,630	13.78	579	14.25	15	26.79	12	21.43
Mountain Ash	..	30,900	15.24	397	12.85	10	21.23	5	10.62
Gaerphilly and	..	36,900	19.81	373	10.11	26	35.57	17	23.26
Gelligaer.	..	36,170	17.80	437	12.08	29	45.03	17	26.40
Mid Glamorgan	..	14,010	17.49	155	11.06	3	12.24	2	8.16
	..	22,920	16.10	300	13.09	19	51.49	13	35.23
	..	22,340	13.52	272	12.18	14	46.36	11	36.42
	..	9,860	13.08	144	14.60	4	31.01	3	23.26
	..	35,150	15.76	499	14.20	25	45.13	13	23.47
	..	31,530	14.78	405	12.84	17	36.48	14	30.04
Neath and	..	41,230	14.24	446	10.82	16	27.26	13	22.15
District	..	25,610	17.42	269	10.50	14	31.39	6	13.45
Pontypridd and	..	38,140	16.20	543	14.24	22	35.60	17	27.51
Llantrisant	..	9,550	20.63	87	9.11	10	50.76	5	25.38
Port Talbot and	..	45,850	18.19	457	9.97	19	22.78	16	19.18
Glyncorrwg	..	41,450	17.95	465	11.22	18	24.19	10	13.44
South East	..	37,300	12.90	499	13.38	10	20.79	8	16.63
Glamorgan	..	1,030	13.59	7	6.80	—	—	—	—
	..	20,000	16.80	137	6.85	5	14.88	2	5.95
	..	18,870	14.15	237	12.56	5	18.73	5	18.73
	..	11,720	14.68	156	13.31	7	40.70	4	23.26
West Glamorgan	..	25,720	13.45	310	12.05	15	43.35	11	31.79
	..	32,190	14.26	430	13.36	18	39.22	15	32.68
Rhondda	..	108,730	14.25	1,434	13.19	49	31.63	29	18.72

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954.

Diseases	NUMBER OF CASES												No. of cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals.	Total Deaths.	
	AGE PERIODS														
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	Over 45			
Dysentery ..	9	2	—	3	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Scarlet Fever ..	9	—	—	1	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	4	—
Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	9	—	3	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

OTHERS :

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eight cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during 1954 as compared with 10 last year.

On receipt of a notification of surgical tuberculosis, the Sanitary Inspector automatically checks up on the milk supply from which district the notification is received.

It should be stressed that the cost of curative patching of a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis may be £1,000. The prevention of Tuberculosis in comparison is almost negligible.

We are coming to a stage when we will have more cases of tuberculosis in our midst than previously, due to the fact that prior to this the bad cases died and the slight cases recovered. Due to modern treatment, the bad cases now survive very much longer. Whilst this is very desirable for the individuals concerned, from the point of view of the community it means that there will be more cases of tuberculosis at large.

There is great difficulty in deciding about the notifications of primary tuberculosis. Some authorities take the view that primary cases of tuberculosis are non-infectious at the time and should not be notified, and consequently they do not notify them. In my opinion, it is very desirable that all these cases should be notified, as, from a preventive point of view, we are very interested to know where they had their infection, and by this means to check up on all contacts and prevent further cases.

It can happen that a primary case would be notified two years later as a certified case of tuberculosis. It is rather late to do anything at this particular stage, it could be done very much easier two years previously.

Rubella and Haemolytic Streptococcal Infection.

There is a great danger in having a lackadaisical attitude towards infectious diseases. For instance, the general public look upon German Measles as being of relatively little consequence. It has been proved that there is great danger to the unborn child if a woman contracts this disease when she is about three months pregnant. As her child may be born with congenital defects such a defect is not due to heredity but due to foetus being affected by the mother's complaint. It is very desirable that a pregnant woman be prevented from coming into contact with such a disease as German measles.

The general attitude towards haemolytic streptococcal infection, such as scarlet fever, is that they are relatively benign. This, in my opinion, is a dangerous attitude. The haemolytic strepto-

coccus is ultimately associated with rheumatic fever, and rheumatic fever is the great cause of heart disease (endocarditis). Haemolytic streptococcal infections are also associated with nephritis, it may be years afterwards when the original agent which caused the disease has been completely forgotten that the patient is diagnosed as suffering from incurable heart disease or nephritis.

In my opinion, it is very dangerous to nurse in open wards in a general hospital any infectious diseases, the proper place for these cases is in an infectious disease hospital.

SMOKING. Cancer of the lung is increasing. There is a close co-relationship between cancer of the lung and smoking. It is very desirable, from a public health point of view, that children and young adults should be actively discouraged from taking up cigarette smoking. A person who introduces the young to the hazards of smoking is taking on himself a grave responsibility.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action was taken under this regulation during the year 1954, relating to Tubercular employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172.

No action was taken under this Section during the year 1954.

Tuberculosis Clinics.—The curative treatment of Tuberculosis is in the care of the Regional Hospital Board, and patients suffering from this disease attend the Dispensary at 9/10 Grove Place, Swansea.

Infantile Mortality Rate.—The Infant Mortality Rate is a very good index to the social circumstances of an area as the rate tends to be high in places where bad housing, overcrowding, defective sanitation, maternal ignorance and neglect, prevail. The rate for Gower is 40.70 per thousand live births, which is lower than last year.

Hospitals.—The Gorseinon General and Maternity Hospital and Garngoch Isolation Hospital are under the control of the Glantawe Regional Hospital Board.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	5	—	—	1	—	—	—

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

Ambulance Facilities:—

Infectious and Non-Infectious Cases—Since the 5th July, 1948, the Glamorgan County Council have taken over the control of the ambulance services in the administrative county.

As regards this area, an Ambulance Station has been established at Pontardawe, which controls the ambulances and cars stationed at Reynoldston, Gowerton, Gorseinon, Pontardulais, Gwauncaegurwen, Cwmlllynfell, Ystalyfera, Pontardawe and Clydach.

Laboratory Facilities—Pathological and bacteriological specimens are submitted to the Cardiff and County Laboratory and the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, for examination.

WATER SUPPLY.

In December, 1954, the Council officially opened the new Treatment Works and Pumping Station at Wellhead, Parkmill, carried out by Contract under the direction of the Council's Engineer, who has been responsible for the whole of the comprehensive water scheme for the area.

The Wellhead source of supply is a combination of a spring and sub-terranean stream emerging from the hillside, the minimum yield being very much in excess of the total daily requirements of the district.

Bacteriological samples shew that the raw water is unsatisfactory, and requires treatment. Owing to the variation in weather conditions the amount of matter in suspension varies almost from day to day, and the plant provides for coagulation, sedimentation, rapid filtration and chlorination.

The chemical characteristics of the treated water are briefly as follows :—

Colour—Clear.

p.H.—7.6.

Hardness—(temporary) Between 160 and 220 parts/m.

The bacteriological results of the treated water are very satisfactory.

The completion of this Treatment Plant and Pumping Station now enables the whole of the district, with the exception of the villages bordering on the Borough of Swansea, to be supplied from the Reservoir on Cefn Bryn.

This work, with the exception of a few short extensions of the mains, completes the Comprehensive Water Scheme which was started in 1946.

During 1954, 180 properties were provided with a piped water supply; thus, of a population of approximately 11,720, 10,950 persons are supplied with water direct from the Council's mains.

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOODS.

All condemned foods are stained with liquid acid green before disposal.

Blown goods are dealt with on the Council's Refuse Tips.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Prior to the war there were 23 privately licenced slaughterhouses in the area.

On the decontrol of meat, the Council received fourteen applications to licence premises. On inspection of the various premises, and the report to the Council thereon, it was recommended that seven slaughterhouses be licenced, viz.:—

H. Jones, Hunts Farm, Pennard.
 W. J. Tucker, Fairwood, Upper Killay.
 F. C. Bayliss, Quarry Cottage, Three Crosses.
 W. Williams, Killay Fawr Farm, Upper Killay.
 P. Hughes, Wern Fabian, Llanmorlais.
 V. Jeffreys, Coed-y-dwr, Llanrhidian.
 G. Rees, Brynteg, Llangennith.

From July the 5th, 1954, to December 31st, 1954, visits were made to the various slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection. The number of animals slaughtered and examined was 1,200.

<i>Bovines.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
95	876	229	1,200

The following organs were condemned at the various slaughterhouses:—

Bovines—7 livers. 2 Lungs.
 Sheep.—6 Livers —

SEWERAGE.

The sewerage scheme for part of the village of Dunvant has been completed, catering mainly for the Council Estate of 30 Houses and the sullage water from Laburnham Terrace.

A further scheme for the drainage of the remainder of the village is in the course of preparation, as are schemes for the villages of Three Crosses and Bishopston.

Work commenced on the drainage of the village of Penclawdd in September 1954, the contractors being Messrs. Davies. Middleton and Davies of Cardiff. The Contract Sum for this work was £70,000 and the time for completion 15 months.

MILK.

Milk is a highly nutritious food. It can also be a most dangerous food, as it can act as an ideal culture medium for certain pathogens, except certain precautions are taken. It is my opinion that it is highly desirable that all milk should be pasteurised.

Milk should come from clean, healthy herds. The milking should be done under proper hygienic conditions, and should not be contaminated at any stage. Pasteurisation should not be used to cover up dirty milk.

27 samples of milk were sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cardiff, for Tubercle Bacilli examination, the results being as follows:—

Negative	.....	21
Positive agglutination with		
Brucella Abortus antigen	.....	2
Premature death of guinea pigs	.....	4

ICE CREAM.

Ice-cream is a nutritious food. It is essential that it should be manufactured, stored and sold under hygienic conditions.

Numerous outbreaks of intestinal infections have occurred throughout the country due to Ice-Cream, and consequently legislation was introduced requiring the registration of premises where Ice-Cream is sold, or manufactured for the purpose of sale, or stored for intended sale.

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Regulations, 1947, state that where in the manufacture of ice-cream, a "complete

cold mix" is used, which is reconstituted with water, colouring or flavouring materials, etc., the product shall be converted to ice-cream within one hour of reconstitution. In any other case, after the ingredients have been mixed, the mixture shall be not be kept for more than one hour above 45°F before being raised to and kept at a temperature of not less than 150°F for 30 minutes, or 160°F for 10 minutes. It shall then within 1½ hours be reduced to not more than 45°F, and there kept until freezing is begun. Ice-Cream may not be sold unless kept at a temperature not exceeding 28°F. It must be protected from contamination at all times.

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Regulations, 1947, have been amended by the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.), Amendment Regulations, 1953, so as to include the High Temperature Short Time (H.T.S.T.) method of heat treatment. This H.T.S.T. method provides for the heat treatment of ice-cream mixes at a temperature of not less than 175°F for at least 15 seconds. The apparatus used is required to be thermostatically controlled and, as with the high temperature short time plants used for the pasteurisation of milk, fitted with a flow diversion valve. The installation of a positive displacement pump is also required, but this requirement would be met where the flow-rate through the plant is regulated by a piston homogeniser. The other relevant provisions of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations of 1947-1951, also apply to ice-cream manufactured by the new process.

There is a great danger if Ice-Cream is made from materials which contain pathogenic organisms. What is even more dangerous is the actual introduction of organisms by insanitary methods of handling.

The Minister of Food has now restored the standard for ice-cream which was in force before 7th July, 1952. The minimum fat content is increased from 4% to 5%, and the minimum content of non-fat milk solids from 5% to 7½%. The minimum sugar content remains at 10%. This has been rendered possible by the improvement in supplies of milk powder.

Samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the Beck Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Unsatisfactory results are followed up each in case.

The number of manufacturers, retailers, and dealers selling ice-cream in the area are as follows:—

Number of manufacturers/retailers of 'hot mix'	.....	.....	1
Number of Manufacturers/retailers of 'cold mix'	.....	.....	1
Number of retailers only	.....	.....	3
Number of dealers retailing prewrapped ice-cream	.....	.....	33

These premises are visited from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

Up to the end of 1954 the Council has erected 270 Houses with a further 24 in course of construction. 28 have been let to Agricultural Workers and 30 to Miners. The Emergency Housing Sites at Devil's Elbow, Parc Estate and Blackhills at Upper Killay, together with Graig-y-Coed, Penclawdd are still retained by the Council, the present population being 58 families.

It is hoped to clear some of these sites during 1955/56.

CARAVAN SITES.

Planning permission has been granted to the following people to allow caravans on approved sites:—

<i>Name & Site.</i>	<i>Water Supply</i>	<i>Sanitary accommodation.</i>	<i>Refuse Disposal</i>
G. E. Rees, Hill-end Burrows, Llangennith.	Spring water pipes to Site.	Water -closets drained to cesspools.	By Council's Vehicle
J. Morris, Broughton, Llangennith.	do.	do.	do.
C. Price, Lagadranta, Broughton.	Spring water.	Proposed water closet to cesspool.	do.
J. N. Grove, Port Eynon Burrows, Field 235.	Mains Supply.	Water-closet drained to cesspools.	do.
W. J. Grove, Port Eynon Burrows.	do.	do.	do.
D. G. Lewis, Croft Farm, Oxwich, Field Nos. 61 and 62.	do.	do.	do.

BEACHES.

The beaches during the holiday season tend to be covered with litter.

Proper facilities from a Public Health point of view, should be provided at the bays.

SHELL FISH.

Five samples of cockles were taken and proved to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Through the kindness of Dr. W. E. Thomas, County Medical Officer of Health, I am able to give the following particulars of samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst.

Milk	.....	44	Icing Sugar	.....	1
Rice	.....	1	Cooking Fat	.....	1
Pudding Mixture	.....	1	Fish Paste	.....	1
Cake Flour	.....	1	Canned Cream Soup	.....	1
Honey	.....	1	White Pepper	.....	1
Halibut Liver	.....		Ice Cream	.....	1
Oil Capsules	.....	1	Marmalade	.....	1
Orange Juice	.....	1	Canned Tomatoes	.....	1
Gravy Browning	.....	2	Butter	.....	3
Baking Powder	.....	1	Non-Brewed Condiment	.....	1
Sauce	.....	1	Presta Cola	.....	1
Salad Cream	.....	4	Lemonade	.....	1
Aspirin Tablets	.....	1	Sweets	.....	1
Total—74.					

BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

In the light of these Byelaws, premises in the area where food is manufactured, prepared and exposed for sale can be visited from time to time for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not there is any contravention of such Byelaws. Where any contravention is found, and/or where the premises are not provided with adequate facilities to ensure and promote cleanliness, the attention of the occupier can be drawn to the matter. A reasonable time is allowed him to instal the necessary facilities.

I recommend to the Council they should make Byelaws under the above-named Section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and that these should become operative as soon as possible.

BREAD.

Agene is used by British millers in flour. Experimental work has proved that this substance can cause a nervous disease in dogs, which is characterised by a form of hysteria. Some countries do not permit the use of this substance in bread and I understand that the United States of America is one of them. Some of the medical profession are disturbed by the use of this substance in the food which has been labelled the staff of life. It has been pointed out that men are not dogs, and that whilst agene produces a form of hysteria in dogs, there is no proof that it has such an effect on human beings. It has been counter-suggested that whilst it may not produce the same symptoms as in canines, it may affect the health of susceptible people, especially when consumed over a period of years. This subject of agene leaves one vaguely disturbed, but in the present state of our knowledge it is desirable that one should have an open mind. I understand the Medical Research Council are going into the whole matter.

Condemnation of Food.

The following foods were condemned by the Sanitary Inspector during the year:—

- 8 Tins of Salad Cream.
- 7 Packets of Baking Powder.
- 34 Bottles of Aspirin.
- 2 Tins (6 lbs. each) Corned Beef.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of Tongue.
- 8 (15-oz.) Tins of Pilchards.
- 15 lbs. of Bacon.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council has in its employ a Rodent Operator and systematic visits are made to dwelling-houses, refuse dumps, business premises, etc., from time to time, and where infestations are found on business premises the Council are asked to carry out the work, and recover the costs. Private dwelling-houses are treated free of charge, and 50% of the costs are recoverable by way of grant from the Ministry or Agriculture and Fisheries, subject to Government audit.

During the year regular visits were made and the necessary action taken at the following:—

1. Wernbwill, Murton and Broadpool dumps.
2. Upper Killay Sewer.
3. Rivers, streams, hedges, etc.

Disinfestation work was carried out in 236 private dwellings and in addition 29 council houses and huts were also treated.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

As required by Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, I give below, particulars with respect to matters under Part 1 and Part 8 of the Act as administered by the Council :

(1) Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	
number on Register	23
Inspections—ditto	60
Number of Notices served	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	
Inspections—ditto	8
Number of Notices served	25
Prosecutions	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	
Inspections	1
Number of Notices served	2
	Nil
Cases in which defects were found :	
Want of cleanliness	3
Sanitary conveniences :	
(a) insufficient	2
(b) unsuitable or defective	Nil
(c) not separate for sexes	Nil
	—
Total	5
	—
Outwork (Section 110 and 111)	1

Appendix

1.—General Statistics.

Area of District—38,652 acres.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of the year—3,762.

Rateable Value of District—£37,348.

Sum represented by 1d. rate—£133.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1954—11,720.

2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births :

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	170	87	83
Illegitimate ...	2	2	

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—14.68.

Still Births :—

Legitimate	4	3	1
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)—22.72.

Deaths	156	90	66
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—13.31.

Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) Births

Deaths.

Death from Puerperal Sepsis	—
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	—
Total	—

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}
}

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Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births 40.70

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 41.18

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 24 Deaths

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) —

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) —







